

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 708
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate the Page Family
reunion.

WHEREAS, families and their legacies of struggling with adversity, pursuing their goals and dreams, and persevering through triumphs and tragedies are an integral part of the tapestry of Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those extended families who embody and personify the true spirit of what it is to be a Tennessean and who, through their good works, have contributed to the growth and development of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the family unit is the basis of American culture and the foundation of an orderly and productive society; the framework for mutual support that the family affords its members is essential to a healthy national culture; and

WHEREAS, a family with a singularly rich history is the Page family, which has hailed from Mississippi for generations; over the years, the family has spread its roots to Nashville, Memphis, Columbus, and Seattle, to name just a few fine cities; and

WHEREAS, the first known member of the Page family, Charlie Page, was part African-American and part American Indian and lived in Smith County, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, known as "Indian Charlie," Charlie Page was at some point sold into slavery to Elizabeth Page of Smith County, and he subsequently adopted her name; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that a gravesite in Smith County bears the name "Page Cemetery," and it is believed that there might be other ancestors of the current Page line buried therein; and

WHEREAS, a determined and persistent family, the members of the Page family made their living as farmers and sharecroppers; and

WHEREAS, with hard work and good fortune, many of them prospered and became owners of their own farms; others branched out to other successful businesses; and

WHEREAS, several generations later, John Calhoun Page was primarily responsible for continuing the sterling legacy of the Page family; as a result, the Page family has flourished and extended itself across the entire country; and

WHEREAS, John Page and his siblings, Martin Van Buren, Bennie Caledonia, James Wesley Maxie, Ethel Addie Pernecia, Rodrick Theodore, James Millard, Susan Vilie, Octavia Mae, Maudie Jane, and Frances Lou, grew up in Smith Co., Mississippi, where they learned the time-honored values of hard work and Christian love for their fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, John Calhoun Page and his wife, the former Emma Flowers, had ten children: Mary, John Wesley, Charlie C., Sadie, Earnest, Jesse, Robert, Frances, Ellen, and Bonnie; John Calhoun Page was well-known and respected in his community as a deacon at Galilee Baptist Church, a music teacher, a hardworking farmer, and a tremendous husband and father; and

WHEREAS, Bob and Pernicia Cantwell were a farming family, and Bob was also a local preacher; to them were born Zilpha Adelaide and Frances and her husband, James Wesley, who lived in Summerland, Mississippi, for many years and farmed; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to the Page family, a model of family values and integrity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the ongoing legacy of the Page family, commend their loyalty, their love for each other, and their pride in the family's heritage, and extend to them our best wishes for future reunions and historical research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.